

# Council Highlights

**Friday, April 3, 1998**  
**Roger Kimura, M.D., Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by Dr L. Howard, President at 5:35 p.m.

**Present:** Drs L. Howard, President; P. Chinn, President-elect; J. Spangler, Immediate Past President; R. Kimura, Secretary; C. Kelley, J. Betwee, G. Caputy, H. K.W. Chinn, W. Dang, C. Goto, G. Goto, P. Hellreich, C. Kam, C. Kelley, R. Kienitz, P. Kim, A. Kunimoto, B. Leeloy, C. Lehman, J. McDonnell, G. McKenna, W. McKenzie, E. Montell, T. Oldfather, S. Saiki, M. Shirasu, M. Sia, S. Wallach, W. Young

**Guests:** Guy Sibilla, Esq. and Kathleen Foo, Certified Procedure Coder.

**HMA Staff:** J. Won, B. Kendro, N. Jones, H. Singh, J. Asato, A. Rogness-recording secretary.

**Downcoding No-Fault Claims:** Dr Howard introduced Attorney Guy Sibilla who has filed a lawsuit against a number of no-fault insurance companies who inappropriately downcoded no-fault insurance claims. HMA's role is to provide information on this issue and to facilitate the collection of the names of those interested to Mr. Sibilla. Physicians must contract individually with Mr. Sibilla if they wish to participate in the suit. The basis for the suit relates to the no-fault law which in general states that any disagreement regarding treatment or a claim must be submitted to the PRO for review. If that process is not followed and there is no challenge within 30 days, the claim is due and payable in full as submitted with interest. From January 1993 until December 1997, all but two of the companies writing no-fault insurance did not comply with the law and downcoded claims without a PRO review.

Dr Howard reported that in his next letter he will notify nonmembers that they will not receive further notification of important issues of this nature. He noted there must be benefits strictly for HMA members.

**Membership Report:** Dr Kimura reported that compared to a month ago, the number of active pay members are the same. Total membership increased by 40 members since last year. Handouts relating to dues collections to date and a delinquency list were distributed. Physicians who are delinquent will not be allowed to vote in the general election.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr Kelley reviewed the December 1997 financial statement as well as the budget for Hawaii Medical Journal and the Annual Meeting. He also reviewed the February 1998 statements and report that the budget is on schedule and doing well.

**President's Report:** Dr Howard reported that he was pleased with the response he received from the neighbor island visits by the various county societies. In regards to the Supreme Court ruling on Informed Consent, he noted the ruling may have implications for many primary care physicians. HMA is planning a meeting to talk further about the ruling.

**Congratulations to HMA Staff -** Dr Howard recognized the following staff for their recent HMA anniversaries and faithful service - Mr. Jon Won (33 years), Becky Kendro (30 years) and J. Kawamoto (35 years). A round of applause was given and ice cream was served.

## Component Society Reports

Honolulu.—Dr C. Goto, President reported that the April 21 HCMS membership meeting will feature a Mediterranean dinner and optional wine tasting. The June meeting will include voice dictation and the internet and the August meeting is scheduled at the Bishop Museum. The first mini-internship session of the year will be held on May 4 & 5.

**Maui.**—Dr J. Betwee, President reported that Maui has had two county society meetings since the last Council meeting. One was held for Dr Howard's visit and three new members were gained from that visit. The other meeting was a business meeting to get some projects started.

Kauai, West Hawaii and Hawaii have not held meetings.

## For Action

**Tobacco Task Force:** The Tobacco Task Force Committee recommendation to send a letter opposing the McCain tobacco package to Senators Inouye and Akaka was approved

**1998 HMA Annual Meeting:** The HMA Annual Meeting and Arrangements Committee recommendations for exhibition booths fees and waiver of fees, speaker honorarium and registration fees were approved as recommended.

## For Information

**Legislative Committee:** A legislative update on the bills HMA has been actively following was distributed as well as information on the partial birth abortion bill and worker's comp fee schedule. Drs S. Wallach and P. Chinn commended Heidi Singh for her outstanding work this legislative session as well as her ability to work well with a number of people on various health issues.

**Sale of HMA Mailing Labels:** A draft policy on the sale of mailing labels was presented and referred to the Executive Committee.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** A number of suggestions to the report have been made and will be presented at the June Council meeting.

**HAMPAC:** At the HAMPAC annual meeting, the following were elected: Dr McDonnell as Chair, Dr P. Hellreich as Vice-President and Dr P. Chinn as Secretary-Treasurer. Any HAMPAC member interested in serving on the HAMPAC Committee is invited to attend to the next meeting.

It was noted that HMA past president Dr Fred Holschuh is running for the State Senate and that a fund-raiser will be held on April 7. Physicians were encouraged to attend.

**E & M Code Meeting:** Dr Howard will be going to the AMAP meeting and volunteered to stay an extra day and attend the E & M Code meeting.

**Scientific and Engineering Fair:** Dr Lehman reported that on March 31 the fair for junior high and high school health and science projects was held. Drs R. Kimura, G. Caputy, C. Hara and C. Lehman helped judge the projects and awarded a scholarship of \$1,000 and cash prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25.

**State Medical Director:** Dr Bairos noted the newspaper article regarding the resignation of another medical director of the prison. Concern was expressed regarding the prison health care system. HMA will continue to support a jail health care system based on national standards.

**Cosmetic Surgery:** Dr Caputy brought up the situation of the person who was recently arrested for doing cosmetic surgery without a license. He noted that the State of Hawaii rules on practicing medicine without a license are very weak and need improvement. This is being referred to the Legislative Committee for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.